

IN THE CLAIMS

1 Please cancel claims 2 and 4 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 3 and 5 as follows:

Claim 1 (Amended) A food container, comprising:

5 a shell having an inner portion and an outer portion operatively coupled to said inner portion; said inner portion being shaped to hold food; said outer portion being spaced from said inner portion to form a chamber having a volume for holding a temperature storing medium; and

10 an opening formed within said shell to permit the selective insertion or removal of said temperature storing medium within or from said chamber;

said shell being shaped to define an expansion zone within said chamber which is sized and shaped to receive expanded portions of said temperature storing medium caused by a change in temperature within said temperature storing medium.

15 said opening being formed at a location within said shell that is lower than said expansion zone, when said opening is positioned to face in an upward direction, to prevent said temperature storing medium from substantially filling said expansion zone when said temperature storing medium is being inserted within said chamber.

20 Claim 2 (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Amended) The food container of claim 12 further comprising cap means for selectively closing said opening within said shell.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

1 Claim 5 (Amended) The food container of claim 12 wherein said outer portion of said shell is shaped to have a support structure extending outwardly from said shell

Claim 6 (Original) The food container of claim 5 wherein said support structure forms a portion of the volume of said chamber.

5 Claim 7 (Original) The food container of claim 6 wherein said portion of the volume of said chamber formed by said support structure defines at least a portion of said expansion zone.

Claim 8 (Original) The food container of claim 7 wherein said opening is formed closely adjacent said support structure.

10 Claim 9 (Withdrawn) The food container of claim 6 wherein said support structure is expandable to create additional volume within said chamber.

15 Claim 10 (Withdrawn) The food container of claim 9 wherein said support structure automatically expands in response to a pressure increase within said chamber.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn) The food container of claim 9 wherein said support structure is provided with accordion-shaped sides to permit expansion.

20 Claim 12 (Withdrawn) The food container of claim 9 wherein said additional volume within said chamber defines a substantial portion of said expansion zone.

Claim 13 (Original) The food container of claim 1 further comprising at least one depression formed within said inner portion.

1 Claim 14 (Original) The food container of claim 13 further comprising a bowl member that is sized and shaped to be at least partially disposed within said at least one depression.

5 Claim 15 (Original) The food container of claim 13 wherein said at least one depression is shaped and sized to hold food.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn) The food container of claim 1 further comprising a lid having upper and lower surfaces that is selectively engageable within said shell to define a food cavity between said inner portion of said shell and the lower surface of said lid when said lid is engaged with said shell.

10 Claim 17 (Withdrawn) The food container of claim 16 wherein said lid is provided with an inner chamber for holding a volume of temperature storing medium.

15 Claim 18 (Withdrawn) The food container of claim 17 wherein the lower surface of said lid is shaped to hold portions of the food when said lower surface of said lid is faced upwardly.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn) The food container of claim 17 wherein the lower surface of said lid is shaped to have at least one depression formed therein.

20 Clam 20 (Withdrawn) The food container of claim 19 wherein the upper surface of said lid is operatively engageable with said shell adjacent said inner portion so that the lower surface of said lid is positioned to face upwardly and serve to hold the food.

25 Claim 21 (Withdrawn) The food container of claim 20 further comprising a bowl member, said bowl member being sized and shaped to be at least partially received within said at least one depression.

1 Claim 22 (Withdrawn) The food container of claim 13 further comprising an said  
opening formed within said at least one depression to permit the selective insertion or  
removal of said temperature storing medium within or from said chamber.

5 Claim 23 (Withdrawn) The food container of claim 19 further comprising at least  
one depression being formed within the inner portion of said shell.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn) The food container of claim 23 further comprising a bowl;  
said bowl being sized and shaped to be at least partially received within the at least one  
depression formed within the inner portion of said shell or the at least one depression  
formed within the lower surface of said lid.

10 Clam 25 (Withdrawn) The food container of claim 1 wherein said shell is  
selectively separable into a plurality of separate shell portions; said plurality of separate  
shell portions comprising a portion of the inner and outer portions of said shell.

15 Claim 26 (Withdrawn) The food container of claim 25 wherein said plurality of  
separate shell portions is provided with an inner chamber that is adapted for holding the  
temperature storing medium.

20 Claim 27 (Withdrawn) The food container of claim 25 wherein a portion of said  
expansion zone is provided within the inner chamber of each of said separate shell  
portions.

25 Claim 28 (Withdrawn) The food container of claim 27 wherein each of said  
plurality of separate shell portions are provided with a mating surface that is operatively  
releasably engageable with a mating surface of another of said plurality of separate  
shell portions.

1 Claim 29 (Withdrawn) The food container of claim 28 further comprising locking means for releasably locking the mating surfaces of said plurality of separate shell portions to one another.

5 Claim 30 (Withdrawn) The food container of claim 28 wherein the outer portion of said shell is shaped to have a support structure extending outwardly from said shell; said support structure forming at least a portion of said expansion zone.

Claim 31 (Withdrawn) The food container of claim 30 wherein said support structure is expandable to create additional volume within said chamber.

10 Claim 32 (Withdrawn) The food container of claim 30 wherein said support structure automatically expands in response to a pressure increase within said chamber.

Claim 33 (Withdrawn) The food container of claim 28 wherein said support structure is provided with accordion-shaped sides to permit expansion.

15 Claim 34 (Withdrawn) The food container of claim 33 further comprising at least one depression formed within said inner portion.

20 Claim 35 (Withdrawn) The food container of claim 16 further comprising a lid having upper and lower surfaces that is selectively engageable within said shell to define a food cavity between said inner portion of said shell and the lower surface of said lid when said lid is engaged with said shell.

25 Claim 36 (Withdrawn) The food container of claim 17 wherein said lid is provided with an inner chamber for holding a volume of temperature storing medium.

1            Claim 37 (Withdrawn) The food container of claim 18 wherein the lower surface  
of said lid is shaped to hold portions of the food when said lower surface of said lid is  
faced upwardly.

5            Claim 38 (Withdrawn) The food container of claim 19 wherein the lower surface  
of said lid is shaped to have at least one depression formed therein.

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